

## FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

One year ago this month we were preparing for our final month with Fr. David Ruppe as our rector. In keeping with the procedures we followed in our previous searches, we were seeking volunteers to serve on the search committee, and receiving names of volunteers. At the 2017 vestry retreat weekend, we were presented with a totally different approach to the search process. The Canon for Transition met with us that Saturday afternoon, and by the time we came home, we (the vestry) were all signed into a site called: Basecamp II. This was a closed email site by which all correspondence and information concerning our search would pass. The second part of this search process was to subscribe to a company called "Holy Cow". Over the next several months we sought information from the congregation, including a comprehensive collection of information submitted to the "Holy Cow" company. More meetings and correspondence with the Canon for Transition. No names or resumes were ever presented to us in that time. No search committee was ever formed, outside of the original vestry retreat Basecamp group.



Enter Fr. Gene Sheppard as a supply priest at St. Luke's. The story takes a turn here. During Fr. Gene's service he felt God calling him to St. Luke's. Fr. Gene sought me out after the service and we met privately for a discussion. I encouraged Fr. Gene to pursue this calling and he agreed to speak with his bishop. We met on a couple more occasions and I suggested Fr. Gene contact our Canon for Transition and throw his name into the search. Rumors began to float about the congregation that Fr. Gene was coming to serve St. Luke's. It was difficult to quiet the rumors, but it was a necessary equation to the search process. Had this not worked out, it would have been an embarrassment for Fr. Gene and for St. Luke's. But, alas, it all worked out. All the i's were dotted and the t's were crossed, and finally the Bishop approved Fr. Gene to come to St. Luke's as the Priest-in-Charge. When things seemed to be lagging to get the final Letter of Agreement in order and signed, we put the pressure on. Fr. Gene was given permission to begin serving us the "permanent supply" until the LOA was finalized.

In what could have been eighteen months or longer to find a priest-in-charge, we were able to welcome Fr. Gene Sheppard eleven months later. As it seems to happen at St. Luke's, Fr. Gene hit the ground running. While still supplying, Fr. Gene was doing pastoral care, wedding vow renewals, and memorial services. We were very fortunate *to have Fr. Gene* on hand for the Lenten season and serving our church for Holy Week. It has been a win-win for all involved.

As we continue through this Resurrection season, we hope and pray all our able-bodied members will come join us on Sundays and at the various social events at St. Luke's. Fr. Gene is eager to get to know all the members of St. Luke's and to be able to interact with all the families and individuals. If you are an "eight-o'clocker" and would return to St. Luke's if we offer that service once again, Fr. Gene is willing to reinstate that service. Please let us know if we can count on you. St. Luke's is alive and well and we are here to serve you every day, every week. We hope and pray we see you soon. God's blessings to you all. *Carol*



## THE STAFF

Priest-in-Charge —	Rev. Gene Sheppard
Sexton—	John Brown
Secretary—	Tracy Reifer
Co-Treasurer—	Hazel Boettcher
Co Treasurer—	Sandia Sommer

## THE VESTRY

- Sr. Warden— Carol Cisler (2019)
- Jr. Warden— Cliff Essig (2019)
- Clerk for the Vestry— Lindsay Mullen
- Matt Crim (2019)
- Lara Shepherd (2019)
- Ben Windland (2020)
- Mary Marshall (2020)
- Becky Young (2021)
- Marybeth Peebles (2021)

## GET TO KNOW OUR PRIEST

We asked Father Gene to share a brief bio with the Parish:

### **Brief Bio of the Rev. Gene Sheppard**

Full Name: Dale Eugene Sheppard

Birth Date: July 10, 1948

Place of Birth: Parkersburg, West Virginia

Family: Wife: Janice Kay (Richards) Sheppard; 3 Children; Melissa Grega married to John Grega; Mike Sheppard

married to Beckka; Steve Sheppard; 3 Grand-daughters; Samantha Welch married to BJ Welch; Brooke Piggott; Madison Henrie; 1 Great Grand-daughter; Averie Welch

Education: 1966 Graduate of Parkersburg High School

2000 Graduate of Ohio Valley University/  
Bachelor's Degree in  
Organizational Management

2006 Graduate of Bexley Hall Episcopal Seminary

2016 Certificate in Congregational Development from Bexley-Seabury

Employment: 1966-1968 Montgomery Wards

1968-1970 Drafted United States Army

April 1970-August 1970 A B Chance

August 1970-September 1971 Union Carbide

September 1971-September 2003 G E

June 2006-September 2015 Missioner at Brooke Hancock Episcopal Ministries

September 2015-March 2018 Supply Priest

April 2018-Present St. Luke's Episcopal Church Priest-in-Charge



## EASTERTIDE CONFIRMATIONS AT ST. LUKE'S

In the early centuries of the Church, congregations would gather together at Easter for the rite of initiation administered by the bishop. There was something – there is something – about sharing those significant and transformative moments with the rest of the Church.

As such, the Diocese offers opportunities in multiple locations around the diocese to celebrate together the rites of Holy Baptism and Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation. The renewal of our commitment as followers of Jesus is no small thing. “Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism,” the bishop prays. “Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them....Let your Holy Spirit be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bishop Thomas E. Briedenthal will be at St. Luke's on Saturday, April 21 for the Eastern Region confirmations. We do not yet have the planned time or details, but we will share once we know more.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. LUKE'S

What a blessing! The church was almost full on Easter Sunday, plus, the congregation participated in the baptism of Judah Josiah Porter Shepherd, the son of Grant and Lara Shepherd.



## APRIL EVENTS

- 1 Easter Sunday HE 10:30 AM  
Food Basket Collection
- 3 Community Dinner 5 PM
- 7 Empty Bowls 11 AM—1 PM
- 8 2nd Sunday of Easter HE 10:30 AM  
Outreach Sunday  
Door-to-Door Meal 1 PM
- 12 ECW Meeting/Election of Officers 10 AM
- 15 3rd Sunday of Easter HE 10:30 am  
Vestry Meeting 11:45 AM
- 21 Diocesan Eastern Region Confirmations  
at St. Luke's—Time TBA
- 22 4th Sunday of Easter HE 10:30 AM
- 29 5th Sunday of Easter HE 10:30 AM  
Carol Cisler's 80th Birth Party 11:30 AM

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 7 **Rebecca Keeley**
- 9 **Maureen Hayes**
- 10 **Rachel Essig**
- 11 **Aidan Perrizo**
- 15 **Marlene Dyar**
- 17 **Andrew Essig**
- 18 **Charles Kurner**
- 25 **Faith Perrizo**
- 26 **Daniel Oates**
- 29 **Mary Marshall**

*Happy Anniversary*

11 **Pat and Marlene Dyar**

## IN MEMORIAM

The Parish Family of St. Luke's extends its deepest sympathy and prayers to the family of **Pat Glenn**. She passed away on Easter Sunday morning, April 1, and was laid to rest on April 4. Pat was good friends with Gillian Keeley, and they were always seen together on Sundays and at almost every St. Luke's event. Gillian was a good friend to Pat, always making sure she had a ride. Due to her health, she hadn't been able to attend church in the past couple of years. Pat's beautiful smile and quick wit is missed.

**Lynette Neilson**, wife of our former interim priest Rev. Jack Neilson, passed away on April 1. She was also a volunteer leader at Trinity Episcopal Church in Parkersburg. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to Trinity Episcopal Church on Juliana Street, Parkersburg, WV.

## ALTAR GUILD

There are still many weeks open this year if you wish to donate for the Altar flowers or Sanctuary Candle. When you sign up to honor someone with the Sanctuary Candle, it is the one hanging from the ceiling with the red glass cylinder. This candle hangs near the tabernacle and is kept ever-burning to mark the presence of the Reserved Sacrament.

The signup sheet is on the ministry table in the Parish Hall. Flowers are \$25/week, and candles are \$10/week. The Altar Guild uses this money for the various items they purchase for the church year (wine, wafers, flowers, supplies, etc.)

Checks should be made payable to

*SLEC Altar Guild.*



## WELCOME TO THE WORLD ELIZABETH!



Elizabeth Abigail Bennett entered this world on Tuesday, April 3 at 3:19pm, weighing 6 pounds 11 ounces, and 19.25 inches long. The whole family is in good health. According to Dad, Andrew is thrilled and is being a wonderful big brother! Sarah's mom was with them before during, and immediately after the birth. Art and Linda are with Paul, Sarah and the little ones this week. Congratulations to the Bennett's and we can't wait to meet their sweet little girl!



<b>ST. LUKE'S BY THE NUMBERS— MARCH</b>	<u>Sunday Worship Attendance:</u>	<u>Outreach</u>
	Mar. 4 — 43	Door-to-Door Meals - 45
	Mar. 11 — 37	Community Dinner— 46
	Mar. 18 — 39	
	Mar. 25— 43	
	Mar. 29 - 15 (Maundy Thurs)	
	Mar. 30— 12 (Good Friday)	<u>Crisis Intervention</u>
	Average Mar 2018* — 41	2 Gasoline Cards
	Average Mar 2017 — 46	
	<i>*avg. excludes Thurs/Fri Services</i>	

## SOCIETY OF ST. SIMEON AND ST. ANNA'S

Congratulations to Marybeth Peebles for being inducted into the Society of St. Simeon and St. Anna's Class of 2018! The society recognizes, honors, and celebrates exemplary Christian ministry of persons 60 and older in the Diocese of Southern Ohio.

About the members of the Society of Saint Simeon and St. Anna.....

Like St. Simeon, they offer us the consolation of God through difficult times or when we begin to doubt. And...

Like St. Anna, they inspire us to believe in a liberation that is always fresh and alive with new hope and new energy.

Marybeth will unfortunately not be able to attend the induction ceremony on April 18 at the Procter Center, but will be inducted "in absentia".

This is certainly a well-deserved recognition!

## ANNUAL YARD SALE

It's time to be thinking about our Annual Yard Sale! The date is set for Saturday, August 11.

As you are cleaning out for spring, down-sizing, moving – keep our Annual Yard Sale in mind. We are accepting items now. They can be put in the large room upstairs in the Parish Hall with the sign “Yard Sale” on the door. If you are not able to take them upstairs, please let Tracy know and we will take care of it for you. If you have items too large, call Dennis @ 740-374-5079 and arrange for pickup.



New plans for this year ..... please separate and clearly label what is in the box or bag (e.g. kitchen, bath, toys, shoes, etc.) Please price your items whenever possible. Go easy on the clothing donations; the last several years we have received much more than we could possibly sell. Thanks for your help.

*Hazel*

## MISC. NEWS

**ECW** will meet on Thursday, April 12 to elect officers. All women attending St. Luke's are invited to join the ECW.

**3rd Street** sign is temporarily out of commission. A part has been shipped out for repair.

**T-shirt Orders** are being taken for the humorous “10 Reasons for Being an Episcopalian” (Robin Williams), with the Episcopal shield and “St. Luke's Episcopal Church” on the breast. An order sheet is on the mission table in the Parish Hall. Shirts are \$12 each.

## LAY WORSHIP LEADER TRAINING

The Diocese will be offering a two-day training for those who are interested in becoming lay worship leaders (or who are perhaps interested in further developing their own spiritual practices but not necessarily in leading worship!) on April 28th and May 12th, 9am to 3pm. It'll be held at St. Peter's in Gallipolis (541 Second Ave., Gallipolis, OH 45631), which is much more convenient for many of us than Procter.

The training needs 6 or 7 people to be viable, but we'd love to have more! The cost is \$20/session, and then they ask that each person provide a \$10/session donation to the church to cover food costs.

Following is the website with the calendar event that gives a description and has the registration form:

<http://diosohio.org/events/event/lay-worship-leader-training-part-1/>

Following is the link DIRECTLY to the registration form:

<https://diosohio.wufoo.com/forms/sfolejg1a35d82/>